

REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED SOVEREIGN NATIONS CONFEDERATION

Indigenous Governance and Donations Policy

Document Status: Governance Policy · Year: 2026 · Authority: Republic of the United Sovereign Nations Confederation ·
Review: Annual or as determined by the Confederation

«Our governance is not for sale. Our authority is not for sale. Our Nations are not for sale.»

1. PURPOSE

The Republic of the United Sovereign Nations Confederation ("the Confederation") recognises the inherent right of Indigenous Nations and Peoples to determine their own governance, institutions, priorities and systems of decision-making.

This Policy establishes the principles and safeguards governing voluntary donations, financial contributions and in-kind support provided to the Confederation for the establishment, development and strengthening of Indigenous governance.

The purpose of accepting such support is to assist the Confederation in developing the administrative, constitutional, cultural, diplomatic and institutional capacity necessary to carry out its legitimate governance functions.

2. INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

The Confederation recognises the principles contained within the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including:

Article 3 — Self-Determination Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination and, by virtue of that right, may freely determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4 — Autonomy and Self-Government Indigenous Peoples have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

Article 5 — Indigenous Institutions Indigenous Peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions while retaining their right to participate fully in the life of the State where they choose to do so.

The Confederation recognises these principles as an important international framework supporting Indigenous institution-building and self-determined governance.

3. PURPOSE OF GOVERNANCE DONATIONS

Voluntary donations and other forms of financial or in-kind support may be used to assist with:

1. development and review of the Confederation Constitution;
2. establishment of governance structures and administrative systems;
3. Nation representation and delegate participation;
4. Elders' and Nation representatives' participation in governance processes;
5. meetings, assemblies, consultations and Nation-to-Nation engagement;
6. development of governance policies and procedures;
7. establishment and maintenance of appropriate registers and records;
8. legal, accounting, governance and professional advice;
9. communications and information systems;
10. cultural, diplomatic and international engagement;
11. administrative equipment and facilities;
12. educational and governance capacity-building activities;
13. development of protocols relating to Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP);
14. development of appropriate financial accountability systems; and
15. other activities approved in accordance with the Confederation's governance arrangements.

4. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

All donations and contributions must be voluntary.

A person, organisation, business, government body or other entity may provide financial or in-kind support without obtaining ownership or political control over the Confederation.

No donation creates an entitlement to determine the Confederation's constitutional arrangements, governance structures, policies or decisions.

5. DONATIONS DO NOT PURCHASE AUTHORITY

A donation, sponsorship, merchandise purchase, gift voucher or other contribution does not purchase:

Nation recognition;
 recognition as a Traditional Owner;
 membership;
 voting rights;
 a position within the Confederation;
 an Elder or Nation Representative position;
 authority over a Nation;
 authority over Country;
 authority over Lore;
 constitutional rights;
 diplomatic recognition;
 decision-making power;
 control over Confederation assets; or
 ownership of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property.

Political, constitutional and governance authority arises through the Confederation's recognised governance processes and the authority of participating Nations, not through financial contribution.

6. PROTECTION OF NATION AUTHORITY

The Confederation does not sell, transfer or confer Nation authority through financial contribution.

Each participating Nation retains its own inherent authority, identity, Lore, cultural knowledge, Country, traditions, representatives and internal governance.

The Confederation exists to coordinate, recognise and strengthen Nation-to-Nation relationships and collective governance capacity.

A financial contribution to the Confederation does not provide the contributor with authority over any individual Nation.

7. NO PURCHASE OF DECISION-MAKING

Donors must not expect preferential treatment or decision-making influence in exchange for financial support.

The amount of a donation must not determine:

- the weight of a Nation's voice;
- voting rights;
- constitutional authority;
- appointment to office;
- recognition of a Nation;
- recognition of an Elder;
- admission or removal of a Nation;
- diplomatic position; or
- determination of Confederation policy.

Where a contributor has a legitimate conflict of interest, that conflict must be declared and managed under the Confederation's governance procedures.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT VOUCHERS AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

The Confederation may, subject to applicable Australian law and its governing documents, accept eligible gift vouchers, goods, services and other forms of voluntary in-kind support for approved Confederation purposes.

Gift vouchers and in-kind contributions must be recorded appropriately for accountability purposes.

Acceptance of a gift voucher or other contribution does not provide the contributor with political, constitutional or governance authority.

Where goods or services are provided in exchange for merchandise or another benefit, the transaction must be recorded accurately as a purchase, sponsorship or other appropriate transaction rather than being incorrectly represented as a donation.

9. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Confederation will maintain appropriate financial records of donations and contributions.

Records may include:

- date received;
- donor or contributing organisation;
- nature of contribution;
- value where reasonably ascertainable;
- intended purpose where specified;
- how the contribution was applied; and
- relevant approvals.

The Confederation will use reasonable financial controls to ensure that donated funds and resources are applied for legitimate Confederation purposes.

10. INDEPENDENCE OF THE CONFEDERATION

The Confederation will maintain independence in its governance and decision-making.

No donor, sponsor, business, government department, political organisation, corporation or other external body may use a financial contribution to improperly direct or control the Confederation's governance.

External funding must not compromise the Confederation's Indigenous governance principles, Nation authority, cultural integrity or constitutional independence.

11. CULTURAL INTEGRITY AND ICIP

All activities supported through donations remain subject to the Confederation's cultural protocols and protections relating to Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property.

Financial contribution does not create ownership or licensing rights over:

- Indigenous knowledge;
- cultural practices;
- Lore;
- stories;
- language;
- designs;
- symbols;
- cultural materials;
- Country;
- sacred knowledge; or
- other Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property.

Any use of ICIP must be separately authorised in accordance with applicable cultural authority and Confederation protocols.

12. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A person involved in receiving, administering or approving donations must disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest.

No person may use a donation for personal benefit contrary to the Confederation's governance requirements.

Conflicts must be managed transparently and in accordance with the Confederation's Code of Conduct and applicable governance rules.

13. GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

Government departments, corporations, businesses, organisations and other institutions may provide voluntary financial or material support to assist Indigenous governance and institution-building.

Such support does not create ownership, control or authority over the Confederation.

Where funding conditions are proposed, the Confederation should assess whether those conditions are consistent with its Constitution, Indigenous governance principles, Nation authority and independence before accepting the funding.

14. TAX-DEDUCTIBILITY

Nothing in this Policy represents that a donation is tax deductible.

The Confederation must only describe a contribution as tax deductible where the Confederation has the appropriate status and authority under Australian taxation law to make that representation.

Donors should be provided with accurate information concerning the tax treatment of their contribution.

15. GOVERNANCE OVERSIGHT

The Confederation's authorised governance body will oversee the acceptance and administration of donations.

The responsible governance body may:

- approve or reject contributions;
- establish donation procedures;
- establish financial controls;
- require declarations of conflicts of interest;
- maintain donation records;
- establish reporting requirements; and
- refuse contributions where acceptance could compromise the Confederation's integrity, independence or governance principles.

16. PROHIBITED CONDITIONS

The Confederation may refuse any contribution where the proposed conditions:

1. attempt to purchase political authority;
2. attempt to purchase Nation recognition;
3. attempt to obtain voting rights;
4. attempt to control Confederation decisions;
5. seek inappropriate access to confidential cultural information;
6. compromise ICIP protections;

7. undermine Nation authority;
8. create an unacceptable conflict of interest;
9. require conduct inconsistent with the Confederation Constitution; or
10. otherwise compromise the independence or integrity of the Confederation.

17. PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINED GOVERNANCE

The Confederation affirms that Indigenous governance must be determined by Indigenous Peoples through appropriate Nation authority, constitutional processes, cultural protocols and recognised decision-making structures.

Financial support is a means of strengthening governance capacity. It is not a source of governance authority.

The Confederation therefore distinguishes clearly between:

SUPPORT — financial or material assistance provided to strengthen governance; and AUTHORITY — the legitimate authority arising through Nations, Elders, representatives, constitutional structures, Lore, cultural authority and recognised governance processes.

No financial contribution can convert one into the other.

18. REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure consistency with:

- the Confederation Constitution;
- applicable Australian law;
- relevant international Indigenous rights principles;
- financial accountability requirements;
- Indigenous governance principles; and
- Confederation resolutions and protocols.

19. GOVERNING PRINCIPLE

The Republic of the United Sovereign Nations Confederation affirms:

«Our governance is not for sale. Our authority is not for sale. Our Nations are not for sale.»

Voluntary contributions may assist in building the institutions, systems and capacity required for self-determined Indigenous governance, but no contribution creates ownership, control or authority over the Confederation or any Nation.

Adopted by: Republic of the United Sovereign Nations Confederation

UNDRIP PROTECTION

The Confederation recognises and operates in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including Article 3 (Self-Determination), Article 4 (Autonomy and Self-Government) and Article 5 (Indigenous Institutions). All website content, names, seals, logos, artwork, designs, cultural material and written material are protected by applicable copyright law and, where relevant, Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) rights, Original Law, Lore, Customary Law, Natural Law and Natural Equity. Voluntary support is received under this Policy: no contribution creates ownership, control or authority over the Confederation or any Nation.

Adopted by: Republic of the United Sovereign Nations Confederation